(b) whether it is a fact that there is going to be acute shortage of edible oils in the country;

(c) what quantity of edible oils is proposed to be imported ;

(d) whether it is a fact that allocation of imported edible oils to the vegetable oil producing units at concessional prices is not reflected in the prices of vegetable oils ; and

(e) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to check rise in prices of vegetable oils ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been a bumper crop of mustard. Toria crop is also good. There is sufficient availability of mustard/rapeseed oil in the pipeline. Therefore, there appears to be no reason for overall acute shortage of edible oil in the country, besides the gap between demand and supply which already exists.

(c) The quantum of edible oils to be imported is decided by the Government from time to time keeping in view the availability of indigenous edible oils, likely demand of edible oils availability of foreign exchange and other related factors.

(d) and (e) Under the voluntary price agreement in force the price of vanaspati has been fixed for various packs of vanaspati, keeping in view the prices of indigenous oils and the issue price of imported edible oils supplied to vanaspati units. This price agreement is being adhered to.

All State Governments have been requested to be vigilant on the prices of vanaspati and also to enforce price discipline. Monitoring of price of vanaspati is also done by the Central Government.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Distress sale of Paddy in Haryana and Madhya Pradesh

*261. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of distress sale of paddy in Haryana as also in the Chattisgarh region of Madhya Pradesh ;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to avert such sale ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India has not entered into the market in a big way at those places ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Government of India have not received any report of paddy conforming to specifications being sold at prices lower than the support price fixed.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As on 30-11-85, the FCI has procured 32,082 tonnes of paddy in Haryana, against 16,101 tonnes on the corresponding date last year. In the Chattisgarh region, the FCI had procured 8,415 tonnes in the current year, upto 25-11-85 against 3,300 tonnes procured during the whole of the 1984-85 marketing year.

Inter-State Subarna Rekha Multipurpose Project

*265. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the amount spent so far in the construction of Inter-State Subarna Rekha multipurpose project;